

The Uses of Intelligence

Peer de Silva

SUB ROSA

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"Many Americans, conditioned by the media, view intelligence as some arcane endeavor, probably not needed, involving fools who have nothing better to do. The facts are otherwise," writes Peer de Silva. *Sub Rosa* is his vivid firsthand account of dealing with Soviet agents in the field, the wary manipulation of double agents, the use of defectors, the technical duels with bugs and radios. It is the story of his career as a courier between Helsinki and Moscow, as liaison with General Reinhard Gehlen and his organization in Germany, as station chief in the spy nest of Vienna, Korea, Hong Kong and Saigon (where a terrorist bomb cost him the sight of one eye), Bangkok, Australia and Washington as chief of the Foreign Intelligence Staff, one of the top staff posts in the CIA's clandestine service.

This is also a human story, the story of the author's attempt to meet and understand his Soviet counterparts, of the unbearable experience of watching helplessly as the Hungarian Revolution was crushed next door, of seeing careful intelligence work squandered or ignored in Vietnam, at phenomenal political and human cost.

Where Allen Dulles's *The Craft of Intelligence* described a generation of secret war from a policy level, Peer de Silva for the first time tells the story from the operational level, the true story that has inspired and sustained a whole genre of postwar fiction.

LC 77-87821 ISBN 0-8129-0745-0
Index 288 pp.
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\$12.50